

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph in the Specification that begins on page 2, line 8 and ends on page 2, line 14 with the following:

The invention involves a locking system for a vacuum cleaner that includes a top portion and a bottom portion where the bottom portion has an opening. The locking system is comprised of a shoulder extending from an inside ~~sidewall~~ surface of the bottom portion, a boss protruding from an outside surface of the bottom portion, a first locking latch secured to the top portion, where the first locking latch is adapted to extend into the bottom portion of the vacuum and abut a bottom portion of the shoulder and a second locking latch secured to the top portion, with the second locking latch adapted to engage the boss.

Please replace the paragraph in the Specification that begins on page 3, line 9 and ends on page 3, line 17 with the following:

As shown in FIGURES 1-3, the invention involves a locking system for a vacuum cleaner 10 that includes a top portion 12 that may, for example, house the vacuum's power unit (not shown) and a bottom portion 14 that may serve as the collection canister. In this particular invention, the bottom portion 14 has an opening 16 and the locking system is comprised of a shoulder 18 extending from an inside ~~sidewall~~ surface 20 of the bottom portion 14, a boss 22 protruding from an outside surface 24 of the bottom portion 14, a first locking latch 26 secured to the top portion 12, the first locking latch 26 adapted to extend into the bottom portion 14 of the vacuum cleaner 10 and abut a bottom portion

of the shoulder 18 and a second locking latch 28 secured to the top portion 12, the second locking latch 28 adapted to engage the boss 22.

Please replace the paragraph in the Specification that begins on page 3, line 18 and ends on page 4, line 3 with the following:

In one embodiment of the invention, the first and second locking latches 26, 28 are integrally molded with the top portion 12. The shoulder 18 may also be integrally molded into the bottom portion 14 of the vacuum cleaner 10, and may extend from a sidewall ~~the inside surface 20 in of~~ the bottom portion 14 toward ~~the boss 22 an opposing~~ sidewall 24. In the present embodiment, the first locking latch 26 is more rigid in construction than the second locking latch 28 which is accomplished by the second locking latch 28 having a greater length than the first locking latch 26 as seen in FIGURES 1 and 2. This can also be accomplished by having different shapes and/or thicknesses of latches 26 and 28. It is contemplated that in other embodiments, the second locking latch 28 may be made of a different and more flexible material than latch 26 so that it is less rigid than the first locking latch 26.

Please replace the paragraph in the Specification that begins on page 4, line 4 and ends on page 4, line 6 with the following:

As shown in FIGURE 1, the first locking latch 26 may be substantially planar in shape. The latch 26 may be in various forms, including a tab. Furthermore, the first locking latch 26 may be spaced apart ~~from~~ from the bottom edge 30 of the top portion 12.

Please replace the paragraph in the Specification that begins on page 4, line 7 and ends on page 4, line 13 with the following:

FIGURE 3 shows another embodiment of the invention where the second locking latch 28 includes ~~an~~ a latch opening 32 and the latch opening 32 circumscribes the boss 22 when the top portion 12 is locked in place. In such embodiment, the second locking latch 28 is positioned so as to engage an outer surface 34 of the boss 22 thereby biasing the second locking latch 28 in a direction away from ~~a sidewall~~ the outside surface 24 of the bottom portion 14. Once the latch opening 32 in the second locking latch 28 circumscribes the boss 22, the second locking latch 28 moves toward the ~~sidewall~~ outside surface 24 of the bottom portion 14 with the boss 22 aligned in the latch opening 32.

Please replace the paragraph in the Specification that begins on page 4, line 16 and ends on page 5, line 2 with the following:

In another embodiment of the invention, as shown in FIGURES 1 and 2, a mounting platform 36 is secured to the top portion 12 and both the first and second locking latches 26, 28 extend ~~from~~ from the mounting platform 36. When in operation, the first locking latch 26 extends from the mounting platform 36 and abuts a bottom section of the shoulder 18 and the second locking latch 28 extends from the mounting platform 36 and engages the boss 22. In such an embodiment, the first and second locking latches 26, 28 may be integrally molded to the mounting platform 36. The first locking latch 26 and the second locking latch 28 may also be positioned on opposite sides of the mounting platform 36. In still another embodiment of the invention, the first and

second locking latches 26, 28 are each positioned below a ~~lower~~ bottom edge 30 of the top portion 12.

Please replace the paragraph in the Specification that begins on page 5, line 12 and ends on page 5, line 19 with the following:

The method may also include the step of positioning the top portion 12 of the vacuum cleaner 10 over the entire bottom portion 14 so as to completely cover the opening 16 in the bottom portion 14 of the vacuum cleaner 10. Furthermore, the method may also be comprised of the step of positioning the second locking latch 28 so as to contact the boss 22 and bias the second locking latch 28 in a direction away from a ~~sidewall~~ the outside surface 24 of the bottom portion 14. In this embodiment, the boss 22 is also aligned with ~~an~~ a latch opening 32 defined in the second locking latch 28. The boss 22 is then positioned so as to protrude through the latch opening 32, thereby permitting the second locking latch 28 to move toward the ~~sidewall~~ outside surface 24 of the bottom portion 14.

Please replace the Abstract in the Specification (page 10, lines 2-8) with the following:

A locking system for a vacuum cleaner having a top portion and a bottom portion where the bottom portion has an opening. The locking system includes a shoulder extending from an inside ~~sidewall~~ surface of the bottom portion, a boss protruding from an outside surface of the bottom portion, a first locking latch secured to the top portion, the first locking latch adapted to extend in to the bottom portion of the vacuum and abut a bottom section of the shoulder and a second locking latch secured to the top portion, the

second locking latch adapted to engage the boss. A method for locking the top portion of the vacuum to the bottom portion is also disclosed.